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LANCE M. LARSON
Director of Legislative Affairs

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Gloria Negrete McLeod
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1124 (Negrete McLeod)** – As introduced 2/18/10 - **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Negrete McLeod:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has reviewed SB 1124, your legislation amending the provisions of Proposition 70. Regretfully, the County of San Bernardino cannot support the bill. As you know, the county owns approximately 365 acres that were purchased with propositions funds. The current properties are loosely situated and have created isolated parcels, some of which lack public access. The sporadic location of properties has no public value.

As you know, the county has been a strong advocate of promoting and protecting our natural, cultural, and historical resources. For example, in August 2007, the Board of Supervisors launched Green County San Bernardino, making us California's first "green county." The county understands our important environmental stewardship role and as a lifelong resident of Ontario, I have a firsthand knowledge of the rich agricultural history of our county. Over the last 250 years, agriculture has played a very important role in the culture, economy and environment of San Bernardino County often shaping the identities of our communities. In order to preserve this rich heritage, the county has proposed a Cultural Heritage Center situated in the Chino and Ontario agricultural preserves. This proposed Center will be rich in agricultural, environmental, and natural history, science interpretation and host a multitude of opportunities for discovery by children and families. The proposed Center has a wide range of support from various stakeholders throughout the community.

It is the county's position that the county's conceptual plan is consistent with the original intent of Proposition 70. However, existing law does not provide the necessarily flexibility that is needed to proceed with the county's conceptual plan. Furthermore, the provisions in SB 1124 would ensure the proposition 70 properties would remain in their current condition, thereby inhibiting potential educational and recreational opportunities to the residents of San Bernardino County. Additionally, the initiative did not specify exactly how agencies were to ensure the property was protected in perpetuity.

For these reasons, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors opposes SB 1124. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lance Larson, County Director of Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821. The Board thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

GARY C. OVITT
Chairman, Board of Supervisors